



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/989,814	11/20/2001	Robin D. Wilson	VIGN1410	1585

25094 7590 10/05/2004

GRAY, CARY, WARE & FREIDENRICH LLP
2000 University Avenue
E. Palo Alto, CA 94303-2248

EXAMINER

PAULA, CESAR B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2178

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/989,814	Applicant(s) WILSON ET AL.	
	Examiner CESAR B PAULA	Art Unit 2178	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the application filed on 11/20/2001.

This action is made Non-Final.

2. Claims 1-29 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 9, 17, and 20 are independent claims.

Drawings

3. The drawings filed on 11/20/2001 have been approved by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

5. Claims 9-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101, because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 9, and 17 recite a method which reads on a human user carrying out the steps manually with pen and paper, and/or mentally. For example, a user might have a set of files for a financial account with several trustees, which share the account at different authority levels. Additionally, there are no apparatus and/or computer involved in these methods

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

Art Unit: 2178

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claim 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

8. Claims 1-8 recite the limitation "one of the set of modes" in claim 1, line 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. There are no previous "modes" in this claim to refer to.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

10. Claims 9-16, and 20-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Using Paradox 5 For Windows special edition, hereinafter Paradox, QUE, 1994, pp.326-331, and 525-537.

Regarding independent claim 9, Paradox discloses protecting a database table and its fields—*assets*-- from unauthorized access by setting a master password for one user—*Parent*--, and an auxiliary password defining the type of access other users—*Child*—have to the table—*sharing the selected asset with a second object (user)* -- (page 525, lines 24-33, page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16).

Moreover, Paradox discloses setting passwords to protect the master user's database tables and its fields—*assets*-- from unauthorized access—*selecting one or more assets of the first object* (page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16).

Furthermore, Paradox discloses setting passwords, which allows a user access to all the table functions, and another password, which only gives a user read-only access—*first mode in which both the first and second objects can utilize the asset, but only the first object can modify the asset* (page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16, and fig. 19.1).

Regarding claim 11, which depends on claim 9, Paradox discloses protecting a database table and its fields from unauthorized access by setting the various passwords accesses, such as a master user having all access to the table and other users (including a third) having read-only access to the same table-- (page 525, lines 24-33, page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16).

Regarding claim 12, which depends on claim 9, Paradox discloses protecting a database table and its fields—*sharing a plurality of assets as a set*-- from unauthorized access by setting the various passwords accesses-- (page 525, lines 24-33, page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16).

Art Unit: 2178

Regarding claim 13, which depends on claim 9, Paradox discloses protecting a database table and its fields from unauthorized access by setting the various passwords accesses, such as one user having access to a table, and all its functions (including read), and another having read-only access—*sharing the table assets individually* (page 525, lines 24-33, page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16).

Regarding claim 14, which depends on claim 9, Paradox discloses protecting a database table and its fields from unauthorized access by setting the various passwords accesses, such as one user having access to all table functions, and another having read-only access (page 525, lines 24-33, page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16). In other words one user can modify the table, and another cannot—*one or more assets, which are not shared with the second object* (second user).

Regarding claim 15, which depends on claim 9, Paradox discloses protecting a database table and its fields from unauthorized access by setting the various passwords accesses, such as one user having access to insert and delete some records and their fields in the table, but only able to view other fields, and another having insert and delete authority for the records which can only be viewed by the first user—*not shared with the first user*, and the authority to only view the records which can be modified by the first user (page 525, lines 24-33, page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16).

Regarding claim 16, which depends on claim 9, Paradox discloses protecting a database table and its fields from unauthorized access by setting the various passwords accesses, such as

Art Unit: 2178

one user having access to a table, and all its functions (including read) with a master password, and another having read-only access—*sharing the table assets only with direct descendants* of the master user (page 525, lines 24-33, page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16).

Regarding independent claim 20, Paradox discloses protecting a database table and its fields—*assets*-- from unauthorized access by setting a master password for one user—*Parent*--, and an auxiliary password defining the type of access other users—*Child*-- have—*selecting two objects* (users) *which have a hierarchical relationship* (Master and Auxiliary table access) -- (page 525, lines 24-33, page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16).

Moreover, Paradox discloses setting passwords to protect the master user's database tables and its fields—*assets*-- from unauthorized access—*selecting one or more assets of the first object* (page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16).

Furthermore, Paradox discloses setting passwords, which allows a user access to all the table functions, and another password, which only gives a user read-only access—*first mode in which both the first and second objects can utilize the asset, but only the first object can modify the asset* (page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16, and fig. 19.1).

Regarding claim 23, which depends on claim 20, Paradox discloses protecting a database table and its fields—*sharing a plurality of assets as a set*-- from unauthorized access by setting the various passwords accesses-- (page 525, lines 24-33, page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16).

Art Unit: 2178

Regarding claim 24, which depends on claim 23, Paradox discloses protecting a database table—*the set comprises a class of assets*-- and its fields from unauthorized access by setting the various passwords accesses-- (page 525, lines 24-33, page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16).

Regarding claim 25, which depends on claim 2, Paradox discloses protecting a database table and its fields—*the class of assets is a child* (of the table asset)-- from unauthorized access by setting the various passwords accesses-- (page 525, lines 24-33, page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16).

Regarding claim 26, which depends on claim 20, Paradox discloses protecting a database table and its fields from unauthorized access by setting the various passwords accesses, such as one user having access to a table, and all its functions (including read), and another having read-only access—*sharing the table assets individually* (page 525, lines 24-33, page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16).

Regarding claim 27, which depends on claim 20, Paradox discloses protecting a database table and its fields from unauthorized access by setting the various passwords accesses, such as one user having access to all table functions, and another having read-only access (page 525, lines 24-33, page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16). In other words one user can modify the table, and another cannot—*one or more assets, which are not shared with the second object* (second user).

Regarding claim 28, which depends on claim 20, Paradox discloses protecting a database table and its fields from unauthorized access by setting the various passwords accesses, such as

one user having access to insert and delete some records and their fields in the table, but only able to view other fields, and another having insert and delete authority for the records which can only be viewed by the first user—*not shared with the first user*, and the authority to only view the records which can be modified by the first user (page 525, lines 24-33, page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16).

Regarding claim 29, which depends on claim 20, Paradox discloses protecting a database table and its fields from unauthorized access by setting the various passwords accesses, such as one user having access to a table, and all its functions (including read) with a master password, and another having read-only access—*sharing the table assets only with direct descendants* of the master user (page 525, lines 24-33, page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paradox.

Regarding claim 10, which depends on claim 9, Paradox discloses protecting a database table and its fields—*sharing one or more the selected assets--* from unauthorized access by setting the various passwords accesses, such as having multiple users with an auxiliary password

Art Unit: 2178

with all access to the table (page 525, lines 24-33, page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16).

Paradox fails to explicitly disclose: *a third object*. However, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included a third user or object having a master password, because Paradox teaches above allowing multiple users the benefit of full access to the table.

Regarding claim 11, which depends on claim 10, Paradox discloses protecting a database table—*the set comprises a class of assets--* and its fields from unauthorized access by setting the various passwords accesses, such as having multiple users with an auxiliary password with all access to the table—*no less restrictive than the mode in which the asset is shared between the first and the second object* (page 525, lines 24-33, page 527, lines 10-page 528, line 16).

Paradox fails to explicitly disclose: *a third object*. However, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included a third user or object having a master password, because Paradox teaches above allowing multiple users the benefit of full access to the table.

Conclusion

I. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ziff et al. (Pat. # 6,557,013), Simonoff (Pat. # 6,463,460), Baker et al. (Pat. # 6,185,591), and Patton (Pat. # 2003/0051164).

II. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cesar B. Paula whose telephone number is (703) 306-5543 (

Art Unit: 2178

(571) 272-2148 as of 10/12/04. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong, can be reached on (703) 308-5465 ((571) 272-4124 as of 10/12/04). However, in such a case, please allow at least one business day.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

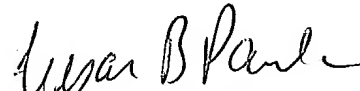
Any response to this Action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

- (703) 703-872-9306, (for all Formal communications intended for entry)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).


CESAR B PAULA
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2178

10/1/04